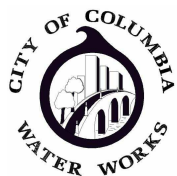




A Publication of
City of Columbia Water Works



WHERE DOES COLUMBIA'S WATER COME FROM?

The City operates two water treatment plants, one of which draws water from the Broad River Diversion Canal and the other from Lake Murray. The two plants produce an average of 60 million gallons of water per day that is provided to approximately 375,000 people in Richland and Lexington Counties through more than 2,400 miles of underground pipeline.

Generally, the Lake Murray Plant serves the area west of the Broad River and the area north of Interstate 20 and the Columbia Canal Plant serves the remaining area.

DRINK GREEN: BOTTLE YOUR OWN WATER

Disposable water bottles are extremely wasteful. A better option is a reusable bottle that can be refilled often with tap water. Drinking tap water is just as safe and healthy as bottled water, much more cost efficient, and helps protect the environment.

Buying a single bottle of water at a convenience store for \$1 may seem cheap, but you can refill the same 16.9 oz. bottle 3,678 times with the City of Columbia water for the same price.

ANOTHER "TASTY" AWARD!

City of Columbia claimed first place at the South Carolina Environmental Conference for the best tasting water in 2010! This is in addition to being a semi finalist in a national taste test conducted by NBC's "The Today Show" in 2007! One more reason to turn on your tap and enjoy your exceptional tap water.

Remember consume responsibly!

LOOK FOR THE LABEL

Water Sense, a new voluntary public-private partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is making it easy to find and select water efficient products with a label backed by independent testing and certification.



Generally speaking, WaterSense labeled products will be about 20% more water efficient and perform their intended function as well as or better than their less efficient counterparts.

HOW MUCH WATER ARE YOU USING?

To learn, use the Water Budget Calculator at

<http://h2ouse.org/>

The Calculator will give you a water budget that tells you the right amount you should be using.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

City of Columbia Water Works 803 255-8160

www.columbia.sc.gov/waterworkspubliceducation

www.epa.gov/watersense

www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/or.htm

www.wateruseitwisely.com

Conserve Columbia

WATER CONSERVATION... IT'S NOT JUST FOR DROUGHT

Although water is one of our most critical resources, it is often misused and abused. The City of Columbia is dedicated to providing an adequate supply of clean drinking water for both current and future generations. You can do your part too. Our educational campaign, Conserve Columbia, is a great way to learn more about your water and how you can make a positive difference.

You may not often realize that only tap water keeps us healthy, fights fires, supports our economy, and provides us with a high quality of life to enjoy. Each of us can help ensure that we continue to have these benefits for many years to come by practicing water conservation in our everyday activities.

Water conservation is no longer just related to drought; it is necessary as a way of life all year. It is simple, inexpensive, and most importantly our personal responsibility.

Please remind yourself the next time you turn on the tap!

HOW TO USE YOUR WATER WISELY

Outdoors

- Design your landscape with native plants and reduce grass covered areas.
- Use sprinklers that produce droplets rather than mist and include rain shut-off devices.
- Water during the coolest part of the day.
- Use soaker hoses or trickle irrigation for trees and shrubs.
- Install covers on pools and spas to reduce evaporation, and check for leaks around pumps.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.
- Cut grass at least three inches high to shade roots, making it more drought-tolerant.
- Mulch to retain water. Spread leaves, lawn clippings, or landscaping tarps around plants. Mulching also controls weeds that compete with garden plants for water.
- Wash your car less often or wash it at a car-wash where they can clean and recycle the water.
- If you do wash your car at home, use a bucket of diluted biodegradable soap rather than running a hose.

Indoors

- Install a water-efficient showerhead (<2.5 gallons/minute).
- Take a 5-minute shower rather than a bath.
- Turn off water while brushing teeth and shaving.
- Wash only full loads of laundry and replace old clothes washers with a water and energy efficient model.
- Scrape rather than rinse dishes before loading into the dishwasher.
- Check your toilet for “silent” leaks by placing a little food coloring in the tank and seeing if it leaks into the bowl.
- Don’t pour water down the drain if you can use it for other projects such as watering plants or cleaning.
- When you buy a new toilet, choose a low flow model (1.6 gallons or less per flush).
- Avoid using the toilet as a trash basket for facial tissues and similar items. Each flush uses 5 to 7 gallons of water.
- Teach children to turn off faucets tightly.

DON'T WASTE UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!